

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks.

Original claims 1-26 remain in this application. No amendments are submitted with this response.

### **Rejections**

#### *Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)*

Claims 1, 5-7, 18, 19, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chan et al., US Patent Number 6,636,666 (hereinafter “Chan”). The rejection is traversed as follows.

Claim 1 recites in part:

“A multi-wavelength light source, comprising:

a gain medium which emits light of a plurality of wavelengths in response to pumping, the gain medium disposed in an optical cavity which repetitively passes light through the gain medium [...]”

Chan discloses an optical power equalizer. Chan does not disclose a light source as required by claim 1, but rather an equalizing amplifier that acts on incoming light generated elsewhere.

Specifically, the light source recited in claim 1 requires “an optical cavity which repetitively passes light through the gain medium”. The equalizer disclosed by Chan does not disclose repetitive passing of light through the gain medium as required by claim 1. For example, Chan does not disclose a direct optical feedback from the output to the input of his

amplifier. Consequently, since claim 1 includes limitations not disclosed by Chan, Chan does not anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 5-7, 18, 19, and 21-23 depend on claim 1. Therefore, they are patentable over Chan at least for the same reasons given above for the patentability of claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the invention as claimed in claims 1, 5-7, 18, 19, and 21-23 is not anticipated by Chan under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

*Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103*

Claims 2-4 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Chan et al., in light of Official notice of the perceived missing elements. The rejections are traversed as follows. Claims 2-4 and 9-10 depend on claim 1. As explained above in relation to rejection of claim 1 over Chan for anticipation, Chan does not disclose a light source as required by claim 1. Thus, contrary to Examiner's conclusion, the combination of Chan and the Official notices does not teach each and every element of claims 2-4 and 9-10 as required for a prima facie obviousness rejection. It would not be obvious to add a light source to Chan, as this addition would change the function and principle of operation of the optical power equalizer disclosed by the reference. The purpose of the invention as claimed is to generate a multiwavelength light signal, not to amplify an already existing incoming signal.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as claimed in claims 2-4 and 9-10 is not rendered obvious by Chan, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8, 11-17, contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim. In light of the arguments presented above, Applicants believe it unnecessary to amend the claims as requested.

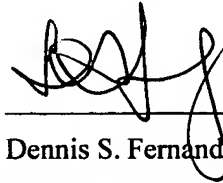
Applicants also thank the Examiner for allowing claims 24-26.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted by Applicants that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



Dennis S. Fernandez

Reg. No. 34,160

Address: **FERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES LLP**  
Patent Attorneys  
1047 El Camino Real  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Phone: (650) 325-4999  
Fax: (650) 325-1203  
Email: [iploft@iploft.com](mailto:iploft@iploft.com)